

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 564.

California's public schools are at the center of our communities, and school-based health centers are an efficient and effective way to provide critical health services. In July 2006, I announced my intention to develop a plan to establish 500 new health centers at elementary schools. The advisory workgroup I commissioned recommended the development of a grant program to support and expand programs in California. This bill sets forth a framework to provide such grants, but does not require implementation until funds are appropriated for that purpose.

I support efforts to bring greater prevention and wellness activities to Californians. I support laying the groundwork for these health centers, but recognize that expansion will require a significant investment that California cannot afford today. While implementation is contingent upon a future appropriation that will have to be considered in the context of the overall budget, I am signing this bill to establish the statutory framework to guide expansion once resources are available.

The expansion will only take place when adequate fiscal resources are appropriated.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger